



# MA CHADASH!

What's New! The newsletter of Temple Shalom Synagogue Center, Auburn, Maine

# מה חדש!

ק"ק היכל שלום

July 2021, Tammuz/Av 5781



## Seventh Annual MAINE-LY JEWISH STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

Thursday, July 8th, 7:00 P.M., on Zoom

### Featuring: Canadian-Jewish Author, Jon Papernick,

Jonathan Papernick, born and raised in Toronto, Canada, is the author of two short story collections, *The Ascent of Eli Israel* and *There Is No Other* and three novels, the most recent being *I Am My Beloveds*. He serves as Senior Writer-in-Residence in the Writing, Literature and Publishing department at Emerson College in Boston where he has taught since 2007. Jon has taught fiction writing for more than twenty years at Pratt Institute, GrubStreet, Brandeis University, Bar Ilan University and Emerson College, in Boston, where he has taught since 2007, serving as Senior Writer-in-Residence since 2012. He lives on Boston's South Shore with his wife, stepdaughters, and sons.

### Also Featuring: Cantor Sheila Nesis

Sheila Nesis is a cantor and mother of two. She most recently served as Cantor at Temple Sinai in Denver, CO. Prior to that, she served progressive congregations in Phoenix, Scottsdale and New York City. Her writings appear in various Jewish publications, including *Kveller*, *The Forward* and *Ritualwell*, among others. Originally from Argentina, she currently resides in Portland, Maine.

## FROM THE RABBI



*The past few years have seen us all turned from people into labels—right, left, secular, Haredi [ultra-Orthodox], Jewish, Arab. This government has been formed so that we stop being labels and revive our common identity, people, with all our complexities...After all the insults and the warnings, the real divide in Israeli society isn't between left and right. The real divide is between moderates and extremists. Those who want to build and those who want to destroy.*

This is an excerpt from an inaugural speech prepared by Yair Lapid, co-leader of the newly installed government in Israel. Those who follow Israel's politics know that this government's formation (by far the most diverse in Israel's

history) is near miraculous. It includes both nationalists and progressives and, for the first time, representatives of the Arab population. It is being co-led by Naftali Bennett, an Orthodox, yarmulke-wearing, right-wing nationalist, and Yair Lapid, a secular centrist. Whether this government can survive is an open question. But for the time being, it allows Israelis—and all of us who deeply love Israel—to dream of a more united, more cohesive future.

The entire speech is worth reading, but it is the paragraph quoted above that really resonated with me. In my opinion, these important words should be loudly proclaimed not just in the Knesset (Israel's Parliament) but all around the world—and, particularly, here in the United States. In recent decades, we have all witnessed the alarming rise of extremist, absolutist ideas. The notion that a particular belief is so obviously correct that those who disagree with it are not just wrong but utterly bone-headed, even evil. Even to the extent of dismissing the beliefs—and cancelling the humanity—of a huge percentage of our fellow citizens. The idea that compromise, openness, listening are signs of weakness or, worse, a betrayal of our core beliefs. Unfortunately, unless we soon heed the words of Minister Lapid, until we accept that working together and getting along must, of necessity, be our highest value, we are doomed to continue on our current path of fighting each other, perhaps even, God-forbid, to death.

That is why it is so sad that these words were never actually heard in Israel's Knesset. Minister Lapid wisely elected to not even attempt to deliver his speech after witnessing the inaugural speech of his co-leader, Naftali Bennett, get interrupted, shouted down and heckled, sentence by sentence. That's right, Israel's Knesset is too divided to even allow a speech like this to be heard! Sound familiar?

So why am I telling you all this? I certainly don't have the power or the platform to influence what goes on in Israel's Knesset any more than I can directly influence US politics. But the Talmud famously teaches us that even though we may not have the ability to completely fix a problem we are still obligated to do whatever little we can towards a solution. So, with this in mind, I share these important words with you in the hope that you will spread them further and, perhaps, as a result, we might move just a little bit closer to a society where we all understand that *the real divide...isn't between left and right. The real divide is between moderates and extremists. Those who want to build and those who want to destroy.*

Rabbi Sruli

P.S. I write these words in the afterglow of the grand re-opening of the Temple on Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, during which all of you celebrated my big birthday with me! Words cannot express how overwhelmed I was by the outpouring of love—so many beautifully written cards, the most carefully chosen gifts, countless heartfelt messages, and hug after hug after hug. And I don't know how I can ever thank you enough for your unbelievably thoughtful and much-too-generous gift of very special time with my Rebbetzin in one of the most beautiful places in Maine!

P.P.S. On Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m., Rabbi Sruli will lead a workshop on Hasidic Music for KlezCalifornia on Zoom. Please go to [klezcalifornia.org](http://klezcalifornia.org) for more information and to register. Donations encouraged.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



Life is getting closer to the new normal. This past Friday night (June 18), we had more than 60 people at the Temple for an outdoor BBQ, Friday night services, the rabbi's birthday and most importantly, a face to face get together of over half our community!

**Together. Face to face. Hugs. Conversation. No Zoom. Togetherness. Food. Services. No masks. Celebration. Love. Smiles and smiles and smiles. (Vaccinations made this all possible.)**

A celebration of Rabbi Sruli's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. A celebration of nearing the end of the pandemic. A celebration of togetherness, without Zoom. A celebration of togetherness. A celebration of us!

During the evening, we remembered the millions who passed around the world and the 600,000 who died in the United States and the 859 who died in Maine. Lives lost. Families devastated. A world changed...forever. Us, changed forever.

Our members survived. No local members contracted COVID and the Bodenheimers, in South Carolina, were the only members infected. We had zero deaths, among our members. That said, we mourn those lost with the rest of the State, country and world.

But we celebrate a new beginning. We celebrate us. We celebrate, that despite our personal disagreements and conflicts, that we can come together to be one. To be a community. To be a Jewish community.

If you recall, the first Red Sox game after the Boston Marathon bombing, featured David Ortiz telling the crowd, Boston and the world, that we are here and no one and nothing will make us go away. But the most touching moment, for me, of that evening is when the National Anthem was sung. All 35,000 fans joined in and sang. It brought chills to me. Friday night had the same feel. Seeing everyone together and enjoying themselves and not fearful of COVID, sent chills and happiness through me. WE made it!

We still don't know what the new normal will look like. It may impact the economy, as many do not go back to old jobs, as they prefer to work from home, change jobs or leave the workforce. We do not yet know what the new normal will look like for Temple Shalom and other religious institutions. We, along with all other churches and synagogues and businesses and government, will feel our way through until we reach the new normal.

As you probably know by now, the Temple Shalom Board discusses COVID at every meeting and we have had a couple of special meetings specifically about COVID.

The current policy is:

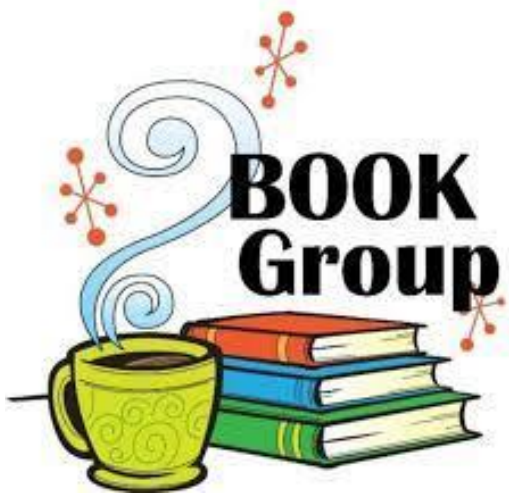
- ~ One must be fully vaccinated to attend any Temple sponsored event. This includes inside and out and on Temple grounds or elsewhere. Those under 12 do not need to be vaccinated.
- ~ In our Temple, masks are required 100% of the time, unless you are on the Bimah or actively eating.
- ~ Starting shortly, when internet is hooked back up, we will have outdoor live Shabbat services that are also on Zoom. At this time, all other services and events will be via Zoom only.
- ~ In Temple events are only for life cycle events, like Bat Mitzvahs and funerals, and special events.
- ~ Our plan is to have inside, in person High Holidays in September and hopefully other inside, in person services sooner.

The Board's primary goal is to keep all members safe and healthy. We continue to make decisions with an abundance of caution, in order to continue to achieve that goal.

Be well. Be healthy. Welcome back to Temple!

David Allen

# !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!BOOK GROUP NEWS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Book Group did meet on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Unless otherwise noted, we do meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, so I'm not quite sure why we met on the 7<sup>th</sup>, but my apologies for the mix-up. I know some of you had planned on the next week, so you couldn't make it to this meeting. But, Lindsey Walker, Bertha Bodenheimer, Judy Abromson, Fredda Wolf, Margaret Meyer, Estelle Rubenstein and me, Lesli Weiner, did show up. It's still on zoom, but perhaps next month we'll meet in person, or perhaps do both. We'll see,

There was a lot to discuss about *The Yellow Bird Sings* by Jennifer Rosner. I'm sure that the fact that

she has 2 deaf children got her thinking about how quiet children had to be kept while hiding from the Nazis. The mother in the novel came up with ingenious ways to keep her daughter busy imagining things, including music from an imaginary yellow bird. The beautiful prose and the heart-warming and heart-wrenching story are all great reasons to read this book. But the motivations of all the characters in the book really drive the plot. See if you can find your way through the different shades of gray their actions entail. Be sure to pick up this book!

*House of Gold* by Natasha Solomons is our book for July 12<sup>th</sup>. This is how Amazon describes it:

**"From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The House at Tyneford*, an epic family saga about a headstrong Austrian heiress who will be forced to choose between the family she's made and the family that made her at the outbreak of World War I.**

*The start of a marriage. The end of a dynasty.*

It's 1911 and Greta Goldbaum is forced to move from glittering Vienna to damp England to wed Albert, a distant cousin. The Goldbaum family are one of the wealthiest in the world, with palaces across Europe, but as Jews and perpetual outsiders they know that strength lies in family. At first defiant and lonely, slowly Greta softens toward Albert, and as the wild paths and untamed beauty of Greta's new English garden begin to take shape, so too does their love begin to blossom. But World War I looms and even the influential Goldbaums cannot alter its course. For the first time in two hundred years, the family will find itself on opposing sides, and Greta will have to choose: the family she's created, or the one she left behind."

The book is 448 pages, so start reading! We're meeting on MONDAY, JULY 12<sup>TH</sup> at 4PM. We'll see you in one form or another. These are strange times!.....lesli



## WHY I SUPPORT TEMPLE SHALOM

A few weeks ago, I participated in a program about writing a legacy letter to my children and grandchildren. It is a personal statement that you share with loved ones and preserve for generations. It is an opportunity to reflect on your life lessons, express your values and transmit your blessings.



The Temple board had a discussion about asking our members to write an article about the Temple. The discussion reminded me about a legacy letter. It caused me to reflect about my Jewish life in the community.

When we moved here in December 1955, some of the first things my parents did was enroll me in Hebrew school, join the JCC and become members of Beth Jacob Synagogue. Through the association with these organizations, I made Jewish friends not just here but also in Bangor and Portland.

After college, I returned to the area and joined the JCC and Beth Abraham Synagogue. Much of my social life revolved around them.

Our family was not very religious. We were raised observing some Jewish traditions and celebrating the major holidays – Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Chanukkah, Pesach. We attended High Holy day and some Shabbat services. We celebrated our sons' Bar Mitzvahs at Beth Abraham.

Our mother died in 1989. I was the one who found her. After calling 9-1-1, my next call was to Rabbi Geller. He was on the Maine turnpike. He turned around and was at her home in a short period of time. I still remember him being there to comfort and console me.

When Sruli and Lisa came to Temple Shalom in July 2014, one of our first interactions with them was their visits to Hospice House where our brother, Seymour (Cy) was a patient. Sruli was there often and got to meet all of our family. I believe Cy's funeral was one of Sruli's first Rabbinic duties at the Temple.

What does all this have to do with my comments about a legacy letter? I don't want to feel guilty that I have not done what I could to preserve Jewish life in central Maine. This is part of the values and blessings I want to pass on to the next generation. I want to know that I have done what I can to preserve our Jewish heritage for families who move here in the future, not just with financial support but also our participation.

I cannot imagine my life without my connection to Judaism and the Jewish people I have been involved with since 1955. The rabbis I have known have helped us celebrate the good moments in our lives and maybe more important have been there to comfort us in our difficult moments.

Think of the legacy you want to leave. Please don't look back at your lives and be sorry you didn't do everything you could to keep Judaism in central Maine alive and well for future generations.

Stan Tetenman



# **We're Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaack!**

**Celebrating the Grand Re-opening of Temple Shalom!**

**June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Photos by Phyllis Graber Jensen**



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Sharon Bodenheimer	July 2
Roz Kutzen	3
Melissa Johnson	5
Olivia Casares	7
Jeffrey Brown	8
Bonnie Faiman	8
Jessica Isaacson	11
Paul Rausch	11
Marion Rausch	12
Phyllis Graber Jensen	14
Lisa Mayer	17
Jonathan Cohen	18
Asher Isaacson	18
Donald Isaacson	19
Sara Tedlow	20
Marianne Wise	22
Anita Miles	25
Richard Rau	27
Melissa Brown	28



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Jeffrey & Susan Brown	July 1
Allyson & Peter Casares	3
Karen & John Calloway	7
Behzad & Harriet Fakhery	7
Joe & Chrissy Zidle	8
Victoria & Jonathan Cohen	31

## Board of Directors' Meeting Monday, July 12, 2021 7:00 pm



## YAHREZEITEN

Howard Kates	July 3
Sarah Shapiro	3
Irving Goldberg	7
Ezra Lape Isaacson	12
Jennifer Lee Levine	15
Randall Silver	15
Dorothy Krasner	17
George Laskoff	18
Adele Brown	18
Mario Nigro	18
Charles Pributsky	20
Muriel Ross	20
Bernice Harris	22
Clara Marcus	23
Fannye Roberts	27
Seymour Tetenman	30



Ma Chadash/What's New is published monthly by Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center. Temple Shalom is an independent congregation and a member of the Lewiston-Auburn Jewish Federation.

The mission of Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center is to foster a strong Jewish identity and an active Jewish Community.

Rabbi Sruli Dresdner

Office Manager Julie Waite

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	David Allen
Vice President	Lesli Weiner
Secretary	Scott Nussinow
Treasurer	Laurence Faiman
Board Members	Judy Abromson
	Bertha Bodenheimer
	Allyson Casares
	Elliott Epstein
	Joel Goodman
	Jonathan Greven
	Henry Meyer
	Lewis Zidle

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Telephone: 914-980-9509

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ritual	Larry Faiman
Membership/Outreach	Bertha Bodenheimer
Budget/Finance/Endowment	Stan Tetenman
Cemetery	Henry Meyer
Hebrew School/Education	Allyson Casares
Programming/Social Action	Phyllis Graber Jensen
	Paula Marcus-Platz
Preschool	Allyson Casares

## SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Harvey Bell, Rachel Corvi, Lee Jay Feldman, Andrea Finn, Dougie Fleck, Sara Graf, Robert Galumbeck, Isaak Gekhtin, Detlef Gerlach, Ariella Green, Sharon Hemond, Michael Jeser, Suzan Katzir, Lynn Kaduson, Linda Koskela, Henry Lefkowitz, Lee Leveille, Bruce Meyer, Sandy Miller, Alice Richman, Joel Salberg, Bob Scott, Sandy Traister, Neal Weiner, Jack Weinstein, William White,** and all others who are not well at this time. *We like to hear good news! Whenever you*

*request that a name be put on this list, please let Temple Shalom know when it can be removed.*



**Rabbi Sruli is always happy to speak with and meet with members or our Temple. Please call or text his cell phone at 914-980-9509 if you would like to speak with him or to arrange a time for a meeting. You can also call or leave a message at the Temple office and Rabbi Sruli will get back to you.**



# CONTRIBUTIONS

## GENERAL FUND

Judith Berman

In honor of Rabbi Sruli

Joy & Lewis Zidle

Speedy recovery to Susan Kanney

Karen Calloway

In memory of Jack Kaduson

Sandy & Rich Kahn

In memory of Keith Seltzer

Phyllis Bell

In memory of Evelyn Levine

Susan & Larry Weiner

In memory of Lillian Rosen

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

Happy birthday to Rabbi Sruli

Happy birthday to Rebbetzin Lisa

Happy birthday to Bonnie Faiman

Marianne Wise

Happy birthday to Rabbi Sruli & Lisa

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

In memory of Clara Marcus

Marianne Miller

To Malca Wilner in appreciation

Bertha Bodenheimer

In memory of Jacqueline Wilner

Anne & David Allen

In memory of Cy Tetenman

Julie, Abby & Danielle Smith

In honor of being able to get together again

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Peter Barr

In memory of Benjamin Barr

Mike & Babs Shapiro

In memory of Harry "Richie" Shapiro

Harriet & Behzad Fakhery

In memory of Sara Feldman

Congratulations to Anna Rothfus Merin

Karen Calloway

In memory of Jack Kaduson

Shelley & Rick Rau

In memory of Steve Bieringer

Joan Levenson

In memory of Alan Levenson

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In memory of Seymour Tetenman

Steve Passerman

In memory of Hillel Passerman

In memory of Miriam Passerman

Marion & Paul Rausch

In memory of Goldie & Irving Goldberg

**ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND**

Judy Abromson

In honor of Larry Faiman being chosen for  
Person of the Year

In memory of Jacqueline Wilner

**MITZVAH FUND**

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

In memory of Clara Marcus

**RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND**

Malca Wilner

In memory of Jacqueline Wilner

Speedy recovery to Ian Greenberg

**BELL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND****BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND****CEMETERY FUND****COHEN/LEVOY GARDEN FUND****EVE & GEORGE SHAPIRO MEMORIAL FUND****FAMILY HEBREW SCHOOL FUND****KITCHEN/BREAKFAST FUND****LIBRARY FUND****MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND****MINYANAIRES FUND****NUSSINOW PRESCHOOL FUND****PRAYER BOOK/PULPIT FUND****SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND**

**A huge thank you to all who  
contributed to the surprise gift  
of a weekend away for  
Rabbi Sruli and Rebbetzin Lisa**

**Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center**

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July 2021

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Dearest Temple Shalom Family,

Rabbi Sruli and I are still flying from Friday Night's Celebration! It meant the world to us to see you all, hug you all, eat together, pray together, sing together and dance together. The entire evening felt like one Big Blessing! Thank you to the Allen Family for sponsoring the fabulous BBQ and to the Casares Family for the magnificent Birthday Cake! Thanks to Phyllis Graber Jensen for memorializing the evening in gorgeous pictures! And THANK YOU, THANK YOU, all for your extreme generosity-- we were really touched by the outpouring of love and appreciation. We truly feel so lucky to have found a Jewish Home, here in Maine, at Temple Shalom. You have become our family-- and Friday Night felt like a Family Thanksgiving. May we always celebrate good times and good occasions together in peace and in health.

All my love,  
Rebbetzin Lisa